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An inaugural Dissertation
on
Pulmonary consumption
Submitted to the examination
of the
Rev. J. Andrews D. D. Provost,
The Trustees of Medical Professors
of the
University of Pennsylvania
for the Degree
of
Doctor of Medicine

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D.^r Rush esteems pulmonary consumption a disease of the whole arterial system, preceded always by general debility, & determined to the lungs, there producing cough, tubercles, abscess & the other local pulmonary symptoms which attend it—

The truth of this theory of the disease is sufficiently established, & the present essay will therefore offer no arguments in its support, but such as shall necessarily arise from a consideration of the causes, which are acknowledged to produce the disease, the symptoms which attend it, & the remedies which are found best adapted to its cure—

to its crew -
in our minds are fixed
the things which attend it, the
are accustomed to receive the
with a conviction of the value
right, but such as shall accept
will therefore give an opportunity
of many relations - the point of
the truth of this may be shown
application will attend it
hardly change in the world
shows to the day the history
in such a way of general history
a choice of the world is not
of such a nature as to be

land

Before commencing the consideration of the causes, I would remark of them, that in proportion as they act suddenly or gradually, the succeeding disease partakes more or less of the acute or chronic form, in the one case terminating in two or three months, in the other perhaps not in so many years; and also, of their division into remote & exciting, that, the former become the latter, when they act on previously induced debility & that, therefore in treating of them I shall not notice the distinction, but enumerate them in common. —

Mal-conformation of the thorax is a frequent cause of phthisis; it may be hereditary, or the effect of accident or fashion, & produces debility by impairing the process of respiration, or exciting a cough; The chronic enlargements of the abdominal viscera & the liver par-
—ticularly

might have the same effect—

Consumption is induced by many Diseases, often by inflammatory affections of the thoracic viscera, by chronic Diseases in general, but particularly those of the organs of Digestion, by nervous & intermitting fevers, influenza, asthma, measles, gout, rheumatism, hypochondriasis, scrophula, the great frequency of consumption in England, has been attributed in part to the general prevalence of this Disease, but this is very doubtful by the observation, that although scrophula is very common among the Indians they are rarely affected with phthisis.

Hemoptysis is placed among the frequent causes of consumption by Dr. Cullen; it often indicates the existence of a predisposition to, but by its timely aid prevents the occurrence of, the Disease, the venereal Disease and the means of curing it, which are often carried to a very debilitating length—

Occupations which require a long continued bent posture of the body, without much exertion, or such, as are carried on in low damp & confined situations, those also which expose the lungs to an atmosphere loaded with irritating particles & thus ^{by} repeating a cough may bring on the Disease—

Excessive evacuations by Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Piles, venery, Fluor albus, excessive menstruation, lactation, & Dr. Rush mentions the case of a young man, who brought on the disease, by the flow of saliva induced by smoking segars. Except in eating & drinking and the midnight debaucheries, which so generally accompany them, may, by the loss of sleep & appetite they occasion,

or all or some grow

weaken the constitution, & thus lay the
foundation for a fatal phthisis. It is
worthy of remark that the age in
which we are most apt to indulge in
these excesses, is also that most fre-
quently attacked by consumption -
Likewise, a diet too attempered, or composed
of aliments not sufficiently nourishing,
this may in part account for the
greater liability of the female sex to
the disease -

It is induced also by violent passions
affections, or exertions of the mind; hence
one reason why men of an irritable and
sprightly disposition, & women are so
frequently attacked by consumption;
also studious men -

or sudden growth about the age of 18.

puberty, & the obliteration of the Thy-
mus gland, Dr. Ross mentions among
the causes of phthisis—

Humours repelled from the surface of the
body, & the operation of an accustomed
discharge—Frequent alternations of hot
& cold weather, hence variable climates
& the more variable portions of the year
are so favorable to consumption—

There is a hereditary predisposition to
consumption, independent of the mal-
conformation formerly mentioned, which
equally favors the production of the
disease—

Phthisis has been supposed contagious, if it
is so, it happens very seldom, & only when
the infected breath & sweats are long ex-
posed—Dr. Cullen never saw a case which
could be certainly traced to contagion.

J. D. Rush accounts for this mistake ^{subtly} on the
proves its non-contagious nature, in the
2^d Vol. of his Medical inquiries.

The danger of the disease, may in general
be estimated by the injury done the con-
stitution, in consequence of the long con-
tinued, or violent action of the already
mentioned causes; it is owing to this, that
hereditary consumptions are most dan-
gerous & difficult of cure; & we may
from hence, also in part, conceive of
the importance of attacking the dis-
ease in its early stage—

As all the causes which have been
enumerated, either act on the whole
system, or by inducing general debility
when they act only on a part, we might
a priori, expect the first symptoms would
make their appearance in the whole
system, & this some time before any local

effects could be observed - just as we would
reason, is the fact, & the first alarms the pa-
tient receives are fatigue, & hurried respira-
tion on slighter exertions than in health,
then in health, his pulse ^{becomes} quicker than
natural, especially towards evening, he is
troubled with occasional head-ache, vertigo
& faintness, he is more liable to take cold
& be affected with cough, his bowels become
irregular, alternately costive & loose, he is
afflicted with a burning sensation in his
hands & this increases as evening approaches
his eyes are rheumatic when he wakes, his urine
more copious, attended with a dry skin &
particularly feet in the morning, his cheeks
are flushed, his appetite fails, he grows thin
he feels languid & indisposed to exertion,
his voice becomes hoarse & weak, & finally
or sometimes pains occur in different parts

of his chest, with occasional hoarse, tips, which
at this period of the disease is rather useful
than otherwise - These symptoms alone
but especially if attended with the usual
marks of an hereditary predisposition,
ought to receive our most prompt atten-
tion, but it is to be regretted they are often
neglected & when they are, the symptoms
which characterise the inflammatory state
generally make their appearance, they are
an increase of the pain & cough with a
fever, a quick, hard & frequent pulse and
a loss of appetite, generally a discharge of mucus
streaked with blood, though often blood
alone; these are succeeded by the
 hectic stage which derives its name from
being always accompanied by a hectic fever
with its usual characteristics, as chills
heats & night sweats & a very frequent
pulse often 130 in a minute during the



paroxysm, & seldom descending below 90
in the remissions, the breathing is labo-
rious during the exacerbation, but
generally relieved by the profuse ^{febrile} sweat
which terminates it, the emaciation
& debility increase, the cough is trouble-
some, & the discharges generally pro-
fuse, the tongue moist & clean, the
appetite ^{often} surprisingly good, the urine
deposits a copious brown sediment,
the bowels generally costive, in the ear-
ly period of this stage, but towards
the close a diarrhoea alternates
with the night sweats, & gradually
ushers in the third & last stage, called
Typhus because attended with a fe-
ver of the typhus kind, a weak frequent



pulse. the ^{rough} more troublesome, not only be-
cause the patient is weaker, but on the ac-
count of the copious purulent Discharges
which generally continue, but sometimes
cease & appear to be transited to the
bowels from which large quantities of
pus like matter pass off, the voice becomes
weak & hoarse, the emaciation & debility are
very great, the eyes appear sunken & dim
& the poor sufferer is turning out off —

Although I have enumerated these symp-
toms, & stages in succession, I would not be
understood to think, they always occur
in the order I have placed them, for I am
well aware of their irregularity —

The remedies for pthisis (as for every other dis-
ease) must be varied, with the varying states
of the system, they must likewise be aided
by the most careful removal of all the



causes which induce it.

When a predisposition to the disease is
necitary, it would be proper to begin
to correct it early, by bringing the subject
of it up to some business, which shall re-
quire constant exertion in the open air.

We may prevent its being produced by the
disease, formerly mentioned among its
causes, by paying greater attention to
these causes, & conducting convalescents from
them with greater moderation.

When however from whatever causes
induced) the symptoms, which were
first enumerated, are present we should
accommodate our patients up to the state
of the weather & his diet to the state
of his system the latter should be
-posed



of articles, calculated to afford nourish-
ment & strength, without stimulating
too much, he should also take gentle ex-
ercise, increasing it in proportion, as he
becomes able to undergo it without much
fatigue; to these it is often necessary
to add the use of the tonics of the shop,
as bark, &c. &c. The cold bath is al-
so very useful - but caution must be ta-
ken, not to let their administration
be continued, when any of the inflama-
tory symptoms make their appearance,
on their occurrence blood-letting becomes
necessary, the quantity drawn must
be determined by the pulse, the nature of
constitution, the season of the year, &c.
Then, also emetics are proper, & par-
ticularly, if the disease has arisen



From catarrh - Read prefers *Geracanthum*,
& *Sium* and speaks highly of the blue
vitriol -

Opium is also useful, caution however
should be observed in its administra-
tion, as it has great tendency when
long continued to impair digestion -
a milk & digestible diet, & the salts
meats, when the stomach is disposed
to dyspepsia, are necessary concomi-
tants of the above remedies -

Fresh subacid fruits are important
articles also in this stage -

Dr. Rush observes that he has derived
much advantage, from exposure
a cold dry air -

Blisters & setons are useful in this
stage, & more particularly so if the



Disease originates from repetition of
Rheumatism or gout -

The cough should be allayed by Demul-
cents, such as, syrups, &c. & Opium in Succession
is useful for this, but, soon, if the arterial
excitement is not great; certain posi-
tions of the body, often relieve a cough,
which has resisted other means -

We come next to the remedies for the heu-
tic stage, & here the strictest attention
to the state of the system is necessary,
for it is never stationary, but always
rising into the inflammatory, & sinking
into typhus, so that it necessary to have
recourse to the remedies for these sta-
ges, as either of them shall predomi-
nate -

It is in this state that a salivation



is more useful than in any other, it has
sometimes effected a cure, & bids fair
when the disease has originated
from fevers, or depends on nervous
disturbances - much reliance was
at one time placed on Digitalis &
the gases, but there is little ground
to hope much from them; our
greatest reliance should be placed
on well regulated exercise -

The night sweats are best treated by
lime water, arsenic citric acid
sugar vitriol, calcined oyster shells,
frictions to the skin with stimulating
substances, sleeping on a mattress &
when they depend on too much ac-
tion, &c. -

When the typhus symptoms appear,
our medicines should be stimulating



as Potatilla alba, Opium. The
Lax, combined with the latter, & if ne-
cessary is used, it should only touch the
mouth; with these remedies a cordial
& stimulating diet should be advised,
composed of animal food, the drinks
should also be stimulating, as milk
brandy, toddy, wine, &c.

These remedies will be found ^{more} useful,
as the system is free from all inflam-
matory Diathesis, they however afford
at best only but temporary relief -

If the cough should continue trouble-
some, the syrups formerly mentioned will
be found useful, they should have com-
bined with them, some stimulating an-
ticles; but Opium affords the greatest
relief -

The diarrhoea is best counteracted by
chalk pills, compounded with the



tincture of cinnamon & laudanum -
by astringent medicines, aliments &
drinks, & by laudanum injected into
the bowels; & in short all the reme-
dies for Diarrhoea from other causes.

By the suspension of the active
symptoms of the disease, & the tran-
sient advantages, (for there are all)
which these remedies generally
afford, we are enabled to take ad-
vantage of the most permanent
benefits, offered by the important
means of exercise & labour; on this
subject much might be said, but I
shall only observe, that it is as ne-
cessary to accommodate their use to

the varying states of the system, as that
of any of the remedies formerly mentioned
when the debility is great, they should
be of the papiere kind & gradually
increased on to the active, observing
carefully never to continue them, after
the slightest fatigue is induced—

The writer of this imperfect essay,
begs leave to offer with it, to the me-
dical professors, his most sincere ac-
knowledgements, for the great advan-
tages he has received from their
respective lectures—

Debilitating
Crabillity

